

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /133 W

----- 025218

R 140850Z SEP 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1243

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 607

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IZ

SUBJECT: PARTY-MILITARY TENSION

REF: BAGHDAD 502

1. ALTHOUGH I HAVE NOT HAD, NOR DO I EXPECT, CONFIRMATION OF RUMORED ARRESTS AND EXECUTION OF MILITARY OFFICERS (REFTEL), REPORTS OF STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN REGIME AND ARMY CONTINUE TO BE HEARD. FOR EXAMPLE, HUNGARIAN CHARGE DEMAC TOLD ME SEPT 14 THAT IRAQI COMMANDER WHO HAD CAPTURED RAWANDUZ WAS DISMISSED FOR EXCESSIVE CRUELTY. IN ADDITION, ARMY HAS BY ALL REPORTS SUFFERED HEAVY CASUALTIES IN KURDISH FIGHTING. YET THERE IS NO PUBLIC RECOGNITION THAT ARMY IS EVEN FIGHTING, NO HEROS, NO MEDALS, NO PUBLIC FUNERALS.

2. FRENCH CHARGE SAILLARD TOLD ME CHIEF OF AF HAYYAWI
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AND SEVERAL OTHER OFFICERS DISMISSED LAST MONTH WERE

AMONG OLDEST BAATH OFFICERS. ANOTHER SIGN OF POSSIBLE TENSION, ACCORDING TO SAILLARD, IS THAT CENTRAL POLITICAL BUREAU OF ARMED FORCES ("POLITICAL COMMISSARS") WAS DISSOLVED ABOUT A MONTH AGO. SUCH MOVES SEEM DESIGNED TO SHOW REGIME'S INTEREST IN DEPOLITICIZING ARMY AND MAKING IT STRICTLY PROFESSIONAL.

3. COMMENT: IT SEEMS MOST UNLIKELY THAT BAATH WOULD WILLINGLY REDUCE ITS CONTROL OVER ARMED FORCES. WHILE IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT CERTAIN MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO PLACATE MILITARY, MOST LIKELY EXPLANATION IS THAT REGIME IS GOING THROUGH MOTIONS OF DEPOLITICIZING AND PROFESSIONALIZING ARMY, BUT IN FACTIS MERELY CHANGING METHODS BY WHICH IT PLANS TO KEEP MILITARY SUBSERVIENT TO PARTY.
LOWRIE

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